

--This application is a divisional of co-pending patent application Serial No. 08/120,601 filed July 13, 1993.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-17, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following claims:

- 2124*
- 18.* A process for screening a candidate substance for its ability to bind to an opioid receptor comprising:
(a) providing a recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising 25 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3;
(b) contacting the substance with the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide; and
(c) detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide.
- 19.* The process of claim 18, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 40 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.
- 20.* The process of claim 19, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 55 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.
- 21.* The process of claim 20, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 70 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.
- 22.* The process of claim 21, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.
- 23.* The process of claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

25

24. The process of claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:3.

26

25. The process of claim 20, wherein detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide involves measuring (i) binding ability; (ii) the ability of the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide to bind the candidate substance; (iii) ability of candidate to activate ion channels in a cell membrane; or (iv) modulation of ion channels in the cell membrane.

27

26. The process of claim 20, wherein recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide is chimeric.

28

27. A process for screening a candidate substance for its ability to bind to an opioid receptor comprising:

- (a) expressing a recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising 25 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3;
- (b) contacting the candidate substance with the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide; and
- (c) detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide.

29

28. The process of claim 27, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 40 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

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29. The process of claim 27, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 55 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

31

30. The process of claim 27, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises 70 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

32

31. The process of claim 27, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.